

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE'S COURT SYSTEM RANKED #1 FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the sixth year in a row, Delaware ranked as the number one court system overall in the study entitled "Lawsuit Climate 2007: Ranking the States" conducted by the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform. This annual study highlights the litigation environment in each state from the perspective of the nearly 1600 corporate attorneys surveyed throughout the country. Delaware courts have held the "top spot" during the entire time that the annual survey has been conducted. The 2007 ranking study measured twelve key elements of state liability systems to determine that Delaware's legal system, again this year, does the best job of any state in the nation in creating a fair and reasonable litigation environment. Delaware achieved a higher overall score than last year and ranked number one in nine of the key elements: overall treatment of tort and contract litigation, class action and mass consolidation suits, punitive damages, timeliness of summary judgment or dismissal, discovery, scientific and technical evidence, non-economic damages, and judges' impartiality and competence.

Chief Justice Myron T. Steele expressed his appreciation to the participants in the United States Chamber of Commerce survey for their support of and trust in the Delaware Judiciary. The Chief Justice stated: "The Delaware Judiciary works together to ensure the fairness and efficiencies of the court process for all who litigate in Delaware's courts. We are pleased that this study focused on the strengths of our court system, including our courts' timeliness, and the impartiality and outstanding expertise and skills of our judges, in again selecting Delaware courts, as the premiere court system in the country. While the survey focuses primarily on cases brought in our Superior Court, all of our courts' judges and employees contribute to the climate of fairness that we work so hard to maintain. While we recognize that perceptions and, as a consequence, survey ratings may vary from year to year, we appreciate the continuing recognition of the commitment of the Delaware's Judiciary to providing first class legal services to our individual and corporate citizens, and obtaining the necessary resources to do so."

"Delaware's top ranking in this survey for six consecutive years is a testament to the superior quality and international significance of our legal system and renowned corporate laws," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "The national recognition of the preeminence of Delaware's courts is a great benefit to the state and all of our business partners."

Speaker of the House Terry R. Spence stated, "My congratulations go out to the members of our judiciary for achieving this distinguished honor for another year in a row. It comes as no surprise to me that Delaware's court system is the best in the nation. Without a doubt, our judicial process is the fairest in the country."

Senator Thurman G. Adams, Jr., President Pro Tempore of the Senate, offered his strong support of the Judiciary, stating: "I've always known that the Delaware Judiciary was number one so this news today was no surprise to me. I've always known that we have had the best Judiciary in the country."

To view a full copy of the report, visit www.instituteforlegalreform.org.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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